

Message Text

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TAGS: EAID, UNDP

SUBJECT: UNDP 19TH GOVERNING COUNCIL - COUNTRY PROGRAM

REVIEW AND APPROVAL - LAOS

SUMMARY: UNDP GOVERNING COUNCIL JANUARY 16 APPROVED COUNTRY PROGRAM

FOR LAOS. ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR FOR ASIA COOMARASWAMY
MADE BRIEF INTRODUCTORY REMARKS ON UNDP PROGRAMS ASIAN
REGION AS A WHOLE, REPORTING HIGH RATE PROJECT APPROVALS,
BUT SAID DELAYS IN IMPLEMENTATION AND SPECIAL MEASURES BEING
TAKEN CORRECT THESE DELAYS. RE LAOS CP STRESSED EMPHASIS
ON TRAINING COMPONENT, AND FLEXIBLE ARRANGEMENT OF LARGE
UNPROGRAMMED RESERVE TO PERMIT NEW GOVERNMENT MAKE ANY
REVISIONS NECESSARY IN LIGHT CHANGING DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES.
THIRTEEN DELEGATIONS INTERVENED IN BRIEF DISCUSSION
CP. END SUMMARY.

1. ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR COOMARASWAMY INTRODUCED LAOS
CP WITH BRIEF SUMMARY COMMENTS ON UNDP ASSISTANCE TO ASIAN
REGION AS A WHOLE. NOTED THAT WITH TWO YEARS OF FIRST
PROGRAMMING CYCLE STILL TO RUN, PROJECT REQUESTS ALREADY
APPROVED TO VALUE OF 96 PERCENT INDICATIVE PLANNING FIGURE
(IPF), THIS CYCLE. IN ADDITION 12 COUNTRIES ALREADY HAVE IPF
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RESOURCES THIS CYCLE FULLY COMMITTED AND HAVE STARTED

PROGRAMMING RESOURCES FROM SECOND IPF PERIOD.
SAID MAIN PROBLEM IN REGIONS REMAINED PROGRAM DELIVERY WITH
PROBLEM PRIMARILY CENTERED ON 3 OR 4 SECTORS AND A SMALL NUMBER
OF COUNTRIES. REPORTED THAT HIS BUREAU HAD CONDUCTED
JOINT PROGRAM REVIEWS WITH THE EXECUTING AGENCIES DIRECTLY
CONCERNED, AND IMPROVEMENTS EXPECTED 1975. ALSO, FORTHCOMING
REGIONAL MEETING OF RESIDENT AND AGENCY REPRESENTATIVES
WOULD DEAL INTER ALIA, WITH PROGRAM DELIVERY PROBLEMS.
OBSERVED THAT WITH INCREASE IN IPF RESOURCES SCHEDULED FOR SECOND
CYCLE, NEED TO IMPROVE RATE OF PROGRAM DELIVERY ACCENTUATED.

2. LAOS CP PRESENTED THIS GC SESSION IS SECOND CP FOR THAT
COUNTRY DURING PRESENT CYCLE. COOMARASWAMY NOTED THAT PERIOD
COVERED BY THIS PROGRAM ALSO EXTENDS INTO SECOND UNDP PROGRAMMING
CYCLE IN ORDER COINCIDE TIME PERIOD OF NEW NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
PLAN OF LAOS. ALSO NOTED THAT PRESENT CP CONCENTRATED ON THOSE
NEEDS IDENTIFIED BY SECTORAL ANALYSIS AS IMPORTANT TO
ANY FUTURE DEVELOPMENT PLAN IN LAOS. IN ADDITION SIZABLE
PORTION OF IPF HAS BEEN LEFT UNPROGRAMMED AS A CONTINGENCY
TO ALLOW FOR ADDITIONAL PRIORITIES WHICH MIGHT EMERGE
WHEN THE NEW DEVELOPMENT PLAN IS COMPLETED. HE SAID THE NEW
GOVERNMENT WOULD MAKE ANY REVISIONS IT DEEMED NECESSARY IN
CONNECTION WITH NEXT PERIODIC REVIEW OF UNDP PROGRAM. COO-
MARASWAMY ALSO CITED SPECIAL TRAINING EMPHASIS IN CP AND
ADDITIONAL UNDP FUNDS PROVIDED TO LAOS AS A "LEAST
DEVELOPED" COUNTRY.

3. COUNTRY INTERVENTIONS - THIRTEEN DELEGATIONS INTERVENED
BRIEFLY IN DISCUSSION CP. SWEDEN, CUBA, FRANCE AND OTHERS NOTED
ADVISABILITY OF THE FLEXIBLE ARRANGEMENTS PROVIDED FOR IN THIS CP
IN ORDER TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE SPECIAL CONDITIONS OF THE COUNTRY.
SWEDEN, IN THIS CONNECTION, STRESSED THAT THE CP SHOULD BE REVISED,
IF NECESSARY, AS SOON AS THE GOVERNMENT'S NEW DEVELOPMENT PLAN IS
ANNOUNCED, AND SUGGESTED ALSO THAT PROSPECTS FOR CLOSER
COOPERATION WITH UNICEF AND UNHCR BE CAREFULLY EXPLORED. HUNGARY
AND OTHERS COMMENDED PRIORITY GIVEN TRAINING ACTIVITIES IN
CP. COOMARASWAMY THANKED DELEGATIONS FOR THEIR COMMENTS IN
SUPPORT OF CP AND REITERATED THAT NEW GOVERNMENT WOULD
MAKE ANY REVISIONS NECESSARY IN LIGHT OF NEW PRIORITIES
AT NEXT PERIODIC CP REVIEWS.
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4. CP APPROVED JANUARY 16 PLENARY SESSION. US MISSION FIELD COMMENTS

EXPECIALLY USEFUL US REVIEW THIS PROGRAM. GOVERNING COUNCIL DIS-
CUSSION THIS CP BEIEF AND US DELEGATION DID NOT, REPEAT NOT,
INTERVENE DISCUSSION. US COMMENTS THIS CP, INCLUDING FIELD COMMENTS ON
TRAINING, COORDINATIONS AND OTHER MATTERS WILL BE FORWARDED

DIRECTLY TO UNDP ADMINISTRATION.

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